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ROYAL DUBLIN SOCIETY.

REPORT

OF THE

COUNCIL OF THE ROYAL DUBLIN SOCIETY

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF THE GRANT OF £5,000
IN SESSION 1887-88,

FOR

IMPROVEMENT IN THE BREED OF HORSES AND CATTLE.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.



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Royal Dublin Society.

Parliamentary Vote of £5,000 for encouraging Improvement in
the Breed of Horses and Cattle in Ireland.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

June 12th, 1889.

SIR,

The Council of the Royal Dublin Society have the honour to submit for the information of His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant the following Report, on the administration of the sum of £5,000, voted by Parliament in the Session 1887-8, for encouraging improvement in the breeding of horses and cattle in Ireland.

On September 28th, 1887, the sum of £5,000 was paid to the Society.

HORSES.

At the Society's Annual Horse Show, held at Ball's Bridge, Dublin, on August 23rd to 26th, 1887, sixteen premiums of £200 each were offered for thoroughbred Stallions. The conditions attached to the award of these premiums are fully set forth in Appendix A to a Return to an order of the House of Commons, dated July 2nd, 1888. The principal condition to be fulfilled by each owner of a stallion selected for a premium was that the stallion was to be stationed in such district as the Society might select, and his services were to be offered to 50 half-bred mares, the property of farmers, at £1 2s. 6d. for each mare.

There were 60 stallions entered in competition for the premiums. 16 stallions were selected on the first day of the Show—Lord Coventry, Lord Ribblesdale, and Mr. Richard Bell acting as judges. Each stallion was certified as free from hereditary disease by at least two out of the three Veterinary Surgeons appointed by the Society.

The stallions were assigned to districts in each of which a committee was appointed to select the mares. The districts are described, and the names of the members of the district committees given, along with other particulars, in the Return already referred to.

The arrangements for the selection of farmers' mares were announced by newspaper advertisements and by posters in each district. The number of mares submitted for inspection varied

from 361a the Tullow district to 256 in the Portadown district, the average number in the sixteen districts being 109. The number of mares selected for nominations was 790, and the number actually certified as served, at the close of the season, was 764. The small number of mares inspected in the Tullow district is chiefly attributable to the death of the stallion originally assigned to that district. Another stallion, the property of the same owner, was substituted with as little delay as possible, but the loss of valuable time in the best part of the season was unavoidable.

Service fees, amounting to £860 12s. 6d., were received by the District Committees from the owners of the mares. These fees were paid to the owners of the stallions along with the premiums of £500 for each stallion. The total sum so paid to the stallion owners was £4,059 10s. 0d.

CATTLE.

At the Society's Annual Cattle Show, held at Ball's Bridge, Dublin, on April 3rd to 6th, 1888, 90 premiums of £15 each were offered for pure-bred Bulls, not exceeding three years old, of the Shorthorn, Polled Angus, and Hereford breeds, and 10 premiums of £10 each for Kerry Bulls. The conditions attached to the award are set forth in Appendix B of the Return to an order of the House of Commons of July 2nd, 1888. The chief condition to be fulfilled was, that the owner should offer the services of the bull to from 30 to 50 farmers' cows, according to the age of the bull, at a fee of not more than 2s. 6d. for each cow. The Judges selected 119 bulls as suitable for premiums. In many cases the owners of these bulls did not undertake to comply with the conditions which would entitle them to the premiums. Applications for premiums were lodged by 62 owners or purchasers of selected bulls. With the assistance of some of the leading Provincial Societies a further allotment of premiums was made, which brought the total number up to 92. These were distributed as follows:—

Ulster,	.	.	.	.	.	33
Leinster,	.	.	.	.	.	31
Munster,	.	.	.	.	.	17
Connacht,	.	.	.	.	.	6

At the close of the season the returns, certified by Statutory declaration from the owners of the bulls, showed that 3,084 cows, the property of small farmers, had been served. The full amount of the premiums was paid to the owners of 74 bulls, certificates having been produced by them that the prescribed number of cows had been served. The owners of 14 bulls received part payment of the premiums proportional to the number of cows served, and in the case of 4 bulls the premiums were entirely withheld in consequence of non-compliance with the conditions. The total sum paid in premiums for bulls was £1,235 4s. 4d.

FINANCIAL.

The account of the fund has been kept apart from the other accounts of the Society. A statement for the year ending December 31st, 1888, is appended.* It will be seen from this statement that a credit balance of £359 17s. 8d. was brought forward to the current year, and there is, at the present time, a balance of £104 14s. 1d. remaining unexpended. This balance has been added to the second sum of £5,000 received by the Society on March 26th, 1899, under the Probate Duties (Scotland and Ireland) Act, 1888.

SUBSIDY FOR 1889.

The regulations under which the Society is now administering the second sum of £4,000 do not materially differ from those above referred to. A Special Show of Stallions was held in February, instead of selecting them at the Horse Show in the previous August, and there were eighteen premiums awarded, instead of sixteen, as on the first occasion. Bulls have been selected for premiums under regulations almost identical with those of last year. When the season has closed, another report on this subject will be submitted by the Council.

SCHEME FOR 1890.

The experience which the Council has gained in the two past seasons has suggested some important alterations in the mode of procedure, especially in the case of horses. The Council have accordingly framed a new scheme for the administration of the portion of the fund reserved for horses, which they beg to append.† The chief feature of this Scheme is a decentralization in the mode of selecting stallions, and the utilization in this direction of the services which the leading Provincial Societies can offer. There is also an alteration in the manner of subsidizing stallions; and mares are subsidized to a much larger extent than was practicable under former schemes.

I have the honour to remain, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

RICHARD J. MOSS,

Registrar.

The Right Hon. A. J. BALFOUR, M.P.,

Chief Secretary for Ireland.

* Appendix A.

† Appendix B.

APPENDIX B.

SCHEME for the ADMINISTRATION of PART of the SUBSIDY of £5,000, PAYABLE ANNUALLY to the ROYAL DUBLIN SOCIETY, under the Probate Duties (Scotland and Ireland) Act, 1888.

The following are the Regulations for the administration of that portion of the Subsidy set apart for encouraging improvement in the Breed of Horses in Ireland for the Season 1890 :—

1. District Shows will be held in the Autumn of 1889, with the co-operation of the local Agricultural Societies, for the purpose of awarding prizes to thoroughbred stallions. The Shows will be held at the following places :—

I.—BELFAST,	North Eastern Ireland Agricultural Association.
II.—SLIGO,	Sligo Farming Society.
III.—BALTIMORE,	Baltimore District Agricultural Society.
IV.—DUBLIN,	Royal Dublin Society.
V.—CORK,	County of Cork Agricultural Society.

2. The Royal Dublin Society will nominate a Judge and Veterinary Surgeon to attend each of these Shows.

3. The five districts will be divided into eighteen sub-districts, as follows :—

BELFAST DISTRICT to comprise	1. Londonderry. 2. Ballymena. 3. Antrim. 4. Belfast.
SLIGO DISTRICT to comprise	5. Sligo. 6. Carrisna. 7. Glenties.
BALTIMORE DISTRICT to comprise	8. Baltimore. 9. Athlone. 10. Parsonstown.
DUBLIN DISTRICT to comprise	11. Navan. 12. Mullingar. 13. Kesh. 14. Carlow. 15. Wexford.
CORK DISTRICT to comprise	16. Dungsavan. 17. Ballyvaughan. 18. Malin.

4. A prize of £20, to be awarded at the district Show, will be offered in each of the eighteen sub-districts for a thoroughbred stallion, to serve in the sub-district on the following conditions :—

(a) The stallion to stand within 10 miles of the central station of the sub-district, and to serve any number of farmers' mares, not exceeding 50, to be nominated by the Local Committee, at a fee (including the Groom's fee) of £3 2s. 6d. for each mare, of which sum the Farmer is to pay £1 2s. 6d.

(b) The owner to be permitted to keep the stallion at his own or any other stable in the district; but he must travel to at least two places in the sub-district, if required to do so by the local committee.

(c) No further restriction to be placed on the owner of the stallion.

(d) The exhibitor of the stallion to defray all expenses of the travelling, stabling, and keep of the stallion.

5. In addition to the prize stallions the Judge shall select reserve animals, not exceeding two in number, for each sub-district. In the case of the failure of the prize stallion, from sickness or any other cause, to fulfil the conditions of the contract entered into by the owner with the Royal Dublin Society, then the owner of the first reserve stallion shall be given the option of filling the place of the prize stallion, subject to the conditions above set forth; and, should he decline, the same offer will be made to the owner of the second reserve stallion.

6. The service season will commence on April 1st, and end July 31st.

7. The prize will be withheld until July 31st, 1890, and until the Society is satisfied that the conditions are complied with.

8. The owner of the stallion will be entitled to the fee of £3 2s. 6d. for the service of each mare for which a nomination has been presented to him, and which has been certified to be fully completed. This fee will be paid to him by the Society at the close of the season.

9. Each stallion must be not less than four, and not more than eighteen years old. The age to count from the 1st of January in the year in which the stallion was foaled.

10. All stallions must be entered in the English Stud-book; and pedigree, with Stud-book references, given in the certificate of entry. In the case of stallions entered for the forthcoming volume of the Stud-book, a certificate from the publishers of the Stud-book, Messrs. J. E. & J. P. Weatherby, 6, Old Burlington-street, London, must accompany the certificate of entry.

11. Each exhibitor of a stallion that has been to stud must produce certificates from the owners of at least ten mares, certifying that they are either in foal to the stallion, or have produced foals by the stallion during the previous year.

12. Owners of stallions have a right to require hobbles to be used when necessary, and to refuse service to mares suffering from contagious disease. Mares can only be served at their owners' risk.

13. In the event of a stallion not being selected for any sub-district owing to want of merit in those exhibited, or otherwise, advertisements will be inserted in the local and sporting papers offering a premium of £170 to anyone who will purchase or hire a stallion approved of by the Society, and locate him in the district to serve fifty selected farmers' mares under the Royal Dublin Society's regulations, at a fee of £1 2s. 6d. for each mare. On failing the above, a loan will be made by the Royal Dublin Society not exceeding £150, on approved security, to aid any solvent person interested in the district in purchasing a stallion subject to same conditions.

14. Failing response to the foregoing offers, the sub-district must bear the loss, and the amount may then be allotted to one or more of the other districts, as may be decided on.

15. A local committee will be appointed in each of the sub-districts to act as the Farmers' Broad Mare Selection Committee. This committee will define the limits of the sub-district, and superintend generally the local administration of the scheme.

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16. At each of the sub-districts the local committee will hold a Show in the month of March for the purpose of selecting farmers' mares to receive nominations, and at which the following prizes will be offered:—

Class 1.—For half-bred mares under 5 years old,* suitable for breeding hunters or carriage horses, and which are certified to be in foal to a thoroughbred horse, or that have produced foals during the previous year:—

First Prize,	. . .	£8 0 0	and a free nomination.
Second "	. . .	6 0 0	and a free nomination.
Third "	. . .	4 0 0	and a free nomination.
Fourth "	. . .	2 0 0	and a free nomination.
Fifth "	. . .		Free nomination.

Class 2.—For half-bred mares 5 years old or upwards,* suitable for breeding hunters or carriage horses, and which are certified to be in foal to a thoroughbred horse, that have been in owner's possession for over two years, and that have produced two foals while in his possession:—

First Prize,	. . .	£8 0 0	and a free nomination.
Second "	. . .	6 0 0	and a free nomination.
Third "	. . .	4 0 0	and a free nomination.
Fourth "	. . .	2 0 0	and a free nomination.
Fifth "	. . .		Free nomination.

17. In addition to the above Prizes the Royal Dublin Society will give a Champion Prize of £10 for the best Mare in Classes 1 and 2.

18. In each Class the owner of the Mare will be at liberty to show her progeny, if he so desire, and the progeny will be taken into consideration by the Judge in awarding the Prizes.

19. The District Agricultural Society and the Local Committee will be invited to give Prizes for the best yearling and the best two-year-old, haltered and led.

20. The District Agricultural Society will appoint the Judges at the Sub-District Shows, and a Veterinary Surgeon if necessary.

21. Mares shown must be the property of a Farmer, the aggregate tenement valuation of whose holding or holdings does not exceed £300 per annum.

22. The term "Farmer" shall be understood to mean a person who derives his means of living from farming.

23. Nominations for the service of selected Mares will be granted for the Fee of £1 2s. 6d., which sum is to be paid to the Secretary of the Local Committee at the time of receiving the nomination. This sum includes the Groom's fee.

* The Age to count from the 1st of January in the year in which the Mare was foaled.

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